

## BALAAM'S ASS SPOKE THE TRUTH, BUT HE WAS STILL, AN ASS!

"...THOUGH I HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, AND UNDERSTAND ALL MYSTERIES,  
AND ALL KNOWLEDGE; AND THOUGH I HAVE ALL FAITH, SO THAT I COULD REMOVE  
MOUNTAINS, AND HAVE NOT CHARITY, I AM NOTHING" (1 COR 13:1-13)

"I assume that you are Calvinistic in creed, fundamental in faith, and moral in manners or you would not be identified with this people. But has the grace you profess made you gracious? Has the love of God you claim made you a loving, tender and kind person? Has the forgiveness of your sins taught you how to forgive? Has your friendship with 'that great friend' taught you how to be a true and loyal friend? Having received the heavenly gifts freely from God's merciful hand, have you learned to give to others freely and generously? You have studied the person and work of Jesus Christ, but 'have you learned Christ?' The only true evidence that you or anyone has of the fact that you know Christ and have truly been with Christ, is that you demonstrate in attitude and action the ways and will of Christ. Is this not what Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians 13? One may have the orthodoxy and knowledge, and gifts of religion; but if he does not have love, he is nothing! Don't just preach the love of God; demonstrate it! My friends, a contentious, unloving, ungracious person is a stranger to the grace of God; for the grace of God makes men and women gracious and loving in all areas. 'By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' Balaam's ass spoke the truth, but he was still an ass! Speaking the truth does not necessarily change one: Learning the truth does."

PASTOR HENRY MAHAN

## WE PREACH CHRIST JESUS THE LORD

"...WE PREACH NOT OURSELVES, BUT CHRIST JESUS THE LORD..."  
(2 CORINTHIANS 4:5)

Beloved, it is not how we preach but rather ever so blessedly the Holy Spirit teaches us, it is who we preach that saves sinners. While we do want to show "all good fidelity" in our families, at work, and in our communities to "adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things," remember (as the LORD gives you opportunity) it is not how we preach, but rather it is who we preach that saves sinners. We read in the Scriptures how the faithful minister of the gospel "opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him JESUS" (ACTS 8:35). This faithful testimony of God's people is repeated throughout the scriptures. John the Baptist, a man sent of God, did not say 'behold a doctrinal truth' or 'behold a scientific truth' rather he said behold The Truth, behold CHRIST, "*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*" (JOHN 1:29). AMEN!

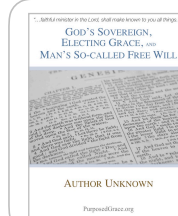
PASTOR

# SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

March 17th, 2019

Beloved, we "...are kept by the  
power of GOD through faith  
unto salvation ready to be  
revealed in the last time"

(1 PETER 1:5)



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**This evening's podcast will be from PASTOR TODD NIBERT**

**1 JOHN 5:18 — WHAT DOES "SINNETH NOT" MEAN?**

Recorded on Sunday morning, February 24th, 2019

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## **PRETEND PREACHING**

*"BUT YE HAVE NOT SO LEARNED CHRIST; IF SO BE THAT YE HAVE HEARD HIM,  
AND HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY HIM, AS THE TRUTH IS IN JESUS"*

(EPHESIANS 4:20,21)

About 16 years ago I heard a young man from Hoxton Baptist Academy pretend to preach, and he made the following remarks: 'I now offer you Christ, and Christ stands with open arms ready to receive you; yes, he begs, he prays, and beseeches you to come to him, and have life; and yet some of you will not come; nay, it is as if God the Father came and fell upon his knees before you, begging and beseeching you to receive Christ and come and be reconciled to him, and yet you will not come.' In this way he continued for a considerable length of time, and this he called preaching the gospel to every creature. And indeed I heard a pretended Calvinistic minister in this town use pretty near the same expressions.

From a professed Arminian [free-willer] such remarks might be expected; but for one who professes to believe in eternal and absolute election to use such awful expressions is one of the highest insults that can be offered, in a religious shape, either to God or man. It represents both Christ and God the Father as poor disappointed beings, quite unable to subdue the heart of a poor dying worm. And what encouragement can there be in such a gospel as this for any poor, broken-hearted, self-despairing sinner in the world to trust in the Lord for salvation? Who dare trust the concerns of eternity in the hands of a being who cannot obtain a favour which he desires and

seeks with earnest supplication on his knees? But, thanks be to God, we have not so learned Christ. We know that *"what His soul desireth, even that He doeth"* (JOB 23:13). Hence, says Christ, *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"* (JOHN 6:37). *"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power"* (PSALM 110:3). *"All thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children"* (ISAIAH 54:13). *"Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice"* (JOHN 10:16).

What has an offered gospel to do with such eternal bulwarks as these? When all free-will offers are sunk in oblivion, GOD'S immutable SHALLS and WILLS shall stand. Bless His precious Name, there is nothing precarious in the salvation of His people. He does not leave it to them whether they will accept offered mercy or not. No; they shall hear His voice, and they shall live. They shall be willing in the day of His power, and they shall know the Lord, and they shall be God's people, and He will be their God. He has sent His ministers to preach the gospel, not to offer it, and He Himself has engaged to make it manifest in the hearts of His people. To them the gospel comes not in word only, but in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.

[PASTOR] **WILLIAM GADSBY**

## **REFORMED?**

*"COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, THAT YE BE NOT PARTAKERS OF HER  
SINS, AND THAT YE RECEIVE NOT OF HER PLAGUES"*

(REVELATION 18:4)

A very popular term in our day is the term "reformed." People who believe the doctrines of grace are generally referred to as "reformed," or believing the "reformed faith." This is supposed to mean that they find their roots in the Protestant reformation. But I am not so sure this is a good term. Here's why.

"The faith" is not a product of the Protestant reformation. It comes from the word of GOD. It is called in GOD's word "The faith, the common faith, and the faith of GOD's elect." It never was corrupted and never needed reforming! It is perfect!

Another problem with this is that GOD's word to us is not to "reform" a corrupted religious system, but *"Come out of her My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."*

I thank GOD for those men called "the reformers" and what they did. But do we want to be identified with "the reformed faith" or the faith of GOD's elect? GOD's elect prefer the latter.

PASTOR **TODD NIBERT**